(54)

1910?

Studland Oct 12
[Wednesday]

My Billy.

Your letter was the only one I had this morning & I laughed to myself over it. Really your servants are worth their weight in gold even when they are heavy enough to break a gate-legged table. I came down punctually at 9 for nice & found of course no breakfast. No letters & nothing but rain & wind. It is pouring hard & has been more or less ever since yesterday at lunch time.

so I am thankful we are going home tomorrow. It sounds as if Adrian were becoming very strenuous. Will he keep it up? I suppose the old Adam of lazyness will creep over him again soon - My brains are becoming as soft as - yours? - by constant contact with the lower classes. I shall be glad to have one floor beneath & one above between me & them again.

The Times has come & I see there is this strike of French railways. I suppose

that is the reason of my having had no letter from Clive today. It is rather tiresome. I am wondering whether he will be able to get back & whether I shall be able to get any letters to or from him if it is as serious as they seem to think it will be. However I suppose the French are used at managing such things.
The doctor has just been for his last visit & thinks Claudia going on all right. It is as well we aren't travelling today for the wind & rain continue & we should have been blown

to pieces & drenched at the stations.

Perhaps I shall come & see you tomorrow after tea. but I expect we shall be in much confusion the first evening so I may possibly not be able to.

If I dont see you then I shall on Friday.

Yrs VB.

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

(55) In the train between Passau & Vienna. (1911 Thurs.)
Pg 6.

My Billy.
I have sent you various cards & I believe Clive is writing to you. Nevertheless perhaps you will expect me to write too though as you tell me I am so inarticulate. I must first tell you of a rather interesting interview I had with Clive in the course of which he confessed to me (he discreetly) that he had been "a little in love with Hilary". I took upon this as a confession that he is in love with him now - in fact I think its obvious. She was quite nice & not so vapid as sometimes. She again abused that dangerous little Dog. We started in great comfort & spirits on Wednesday. When we got to Dover it was snowing & blowing a gale. They told us the crossing would probably take 6 hours & we should very likely miss the Orient express. Several other people who were going by it turned back. Clive felt very unhappy & said we must go back too. I said we couldn't - it would be too late. Then the boat was 1½ hours late starting & Clive came to the cabin to which I had retired at once & implored me to go back. I said we should certainly miss the train - that I should be very ill & that he would much rather not go! However by dint of being very strong minded & as sanguine as you are I managed to stick to the boat until we had started. Then Clive gave up in despair & went down with a groan! The sea was quite awful.

it was me & the worst of crossings for the first part then it [illegible] calmer. Everyone was ill but myself & I have never known anything so extraordinary. Clive sat up & read & felt very well indeed. I lay down as a precaution but felt quite unmoved by the sight of the rolling sides of the boat & rather drowsy. We got to Ostend in plenty of time & I was triumphant because I had made us come - we met Roger & Harry at Brussels. They seem to have been spending most of their time since they left England playing chess & billiards. We are all extremely amicable & polite to each other. Roger seems to be business like & capable - haggles with the waiters & officials in French & German & tries to write Turkish on the spare moments. Clive looks after me like an old granny & I am extremely comfortable myself. It is as nothing would be more horrible than to have any kind of effort to make now. I don't mind being thought a weak & absurd fuss about myself - for I am so sensible. I see that really I shall completely recover & be much the better for this trip. It is so delicious to get out of England & hear foreign tongues spoken - the sound of the German is ugly enough. Nothing gives me the same sense of complete irresponsibility & freedom. I am really rather glad at present to be away from my family - by which I mean the Crats - though I suppose I shall miss them soon.

How are you Bidly? I hope you're not worrying about me. Are you having interesting talks with Roger & expounding to him the doctrines of the New Society we are to found? Yours V.B.

?2 June 1911

Dunbrae.
Guildford. Friday.

My Billy

Chic goes up to London today on his way to the Waterlows & I believe is going to try to make you give him luncheon. So I shall send this by him. I am now established here. Jole & Maud & find the cooking so delicious that if it weren't for the brats I should feel inclined to settle down in it for the rest of the summer. This is really an ideal place for me can sit on the rocks & steam a toast is an occupation exactly suited to my complaint. Also I find the air extraordinarily good for it. If only this weather goes on I believe a few days of open air existence will quite restore me. I get rather jumpy with the effort of arriving at a new place. But a day or two of doing yesterday made me feel amazingly better (you will be interested in my health I know). Also I did two sketches & got a happy painting that I forgot all about nerves & that one had such a thing as a today at all. Why aren't you here too? I wish you were as sensible as I am & as certain

about your precious books - but of course they may not really be worth it. There was a children's tea party here yesterday & I have now quite come to see the charm of children - they are so much simpler than grown ups: if I had always been in your state of nervous decrepitude I should always have found them as attractive as I do now. Of course many non brats may have helped to show me their charm - Roger is very nice & has given me a very pretty little old brooch as a birthday present - I rather pity him, poor man, when I see what his life is here - for evidently Miss Ivy, though she is nice & very fond of him & the children, is also quite stupid & sometimes rather difficult. Considering how much he enjoys the freedom of town society I think it's rather hard on him to have to live with people who make such freedom impossible. I do hope you're going away today or tomorrow. I have had no news & no letters except one from Sylvia - Ottoline seems to have given her version of the affair to Logan Pearsall Smith. But Roger had a long talk with him & he not only accepted Roger's story completely but revealed other delinquencies of O's. I think only more lies of the same description. She is being pretty well exploded as a saint, poor woman.

19 Oct 1911

Café Napolitain
Paris.

Thursday.

My Billy.

I arrived without adventure yesterday & as usual feel very much at home & contented in Paris. Roger & Duncan haven't arrived yet: They'll probably come tonight. So I haven't been able to discuss any of your schemes with Duncan yet & you won't hear what he thinks till about Saturday I suppose.

However I hope you may be in a less wild state of turmoil than when I saw you & that you're proceeding with Fisherman. As for us we're in a huge state of excitement, having just bought a Picasso. Sorry I wonder how you like it.

Its "cutest" & very beautiful
colour. a small stall we
were also taught me two
hats & a great deal of
under-clothing. That's just
what for the first day, is
it? Tomorrow when Roger
& Duncan are here we shall
see some pictures. We've
seen Monica but no one
else yet. Our hotel is
comfortable & very quiet
which is a blessing. Paris
is pandemonium. All the
streets are up & the crowd
is terrific. But I enjoy it.
They all seem so irresponsible
& the cabmen are amusing
& one gets a great sense
of holiday. It's almost

impossible to write with the pen & hardly any ink.

Do write & tell me if any more brilliant ideas as to housing yourselves have struck you. Either expensive rooms or a house with its disadvantages seem to me the only alternatives & in one you will never put up with dreary rooms.

P.S. I wish you really should warehouse & travel for a time. London seems to me so tiresome & without beauty at this moment. But of course I don't want you to.

Yours
K.B.

20 Oct 1911

Le Rat-Mort.

My Billy.

We are dining here to-morrow to a play. Roger & Duncan turned up last night & we spent this morning walking for young geniuses at the autumn salon. Before starting I had an awful vision of Ottoline. A woman passed the hotel door, tall & dressed in flowing violet robes. But it wasn't really O. But a few minutes later as we stood at the doorway O. in person drove past us. - looking ill & haggard she stared at us with a tragic & fearsome & gloomy stare. & I suppose we shall have to go & see her soon. There were no very exciting pictures at the salon but several very good ones. Then we have been to see O'Conor. It all seems very

much as it used to be. I brought
here your article in The Nation
Roger says he likes it very much
Its just what he wanted & get
said. He thinks it a great ad-
vantage to have art criticism
written by those who know what
about it.[X] For my part, I could not
see any art criticism in it.
However it seemed to meet with
Duncans approval too.

He has no views on the whole
question as far as I can see.
But I can only give him a con-
fused account of all your
various ideas. I haven't heard
from you yet but may find a
letter when I get in tonight.

Have you heard that Henry
& Nina are being accused of
scandal by some strange man

X This isn't at all what I said but you can
read between the lines and allow for Vanessa's
artistic distortion.

a woman? O'Connor had an ad.
vertisement warning them off -
from The Daily Telegraph. I
suppose nothing will happen.
I must stop. They're getting
in motive.

Love V.B.

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

Millmead Cottage
Guildford

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Aug 4.

My Billy
I am rather distressed by your letter. Roger told me he had advised you to come & I think it's absurd that you should not. Don't you want to? Craig did say that agitating talks were very bad for me just now. But why should we have any? It was quite different when you came down for the day. When we feel that we only have a short time for talk. If you came for longer we could be less

condensed. It was really an unlucky accident that it just that day I happened to find talking very hard work & I'm sure my affairs were really at the root of the mischief I am much better now. You must do as you like but if you don't come here God knows when I shall see you. I suppose I shall have to go to Scand. It seems inevitable.

You seem to have been very busy lately - I hope

it isn't having a bad effect
on your head. As for
your reputation - I don't
see why it should suffer
more from your staying
with Rupert Brown from
his staying with you.
Nelly minds too stupid
& the world is so much
occupied with her perpetual jokes
about Kitty & wish
you'd let him next-
time that I was even
pushing in my efforts
to keep up with Kit
but she wouldn't have
it. Thank God.
We have Duncan and

tomorrow & Kaynes on
Monday. & Madge wants us
to stay there with her
one day next week I
shall try & get her to come
for the night but she has
immense & undertakings
about incessant work etc.
We have had a letter
from Mrs Whitehead [redacted]
much more optimistic than
a day or two ago & I
really have hopes now
but we shall not be
[illegible] for some
[illegible] Tell Adrian
he promised to write
to me

VB.